received and suitable action was taken with regard to complaints received. Action against two fair price shop owners found to be indulging in overcharging for declaration forms have been initiated.

In order to make PDS more efficient, accountable and effective, Government has issued PDS (Control) Order 2001, under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. This order contains provisions relating to identification of beneficiaries in a time bound manner, periodical checking of ration cards, scale and issue price, distribution of foodgrains, issue of licenses for running fair price shops under Section 3 of EC Act, 1955. Any violation of the provisions of this order involves criminal liability under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Non-recovery of revised marking price

1866. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the news-item titled "BIS officials indicted for favouring firms" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details of the officers of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) who have been indicted for their role in the scam relating to non-recovery of revised marking price on brand products using ISI marks;

(c) what is the estimated loss of revenue to Government on this account; and

(d) whether Government would announce a thorough probe into this scam and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A detailed inquiry into the matter has revealed that the revised

fees could not be implemented in time due to lapses on the part of two officers of the Bureau of Indian Standards (now retired). Action has been initiated for starting departmental proceedings against them.

(c) The delay in implementation of revised rates resulted in arrears amounting to Rs. 2.42 crores to be collected from applicants and licensees of BIS. However, with concerted efforts an amount of Rs. 1.96 crores has already been collected. Efforts for recovery of balance arrears are still being made by BIS.

(d) A thorough probe into the matter has already been made.

Long Term Grain Policy

1867. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High level Committee for formulating a Long Term Grain Policy for the country constituted by his Ministry has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a) No, Sir. The final report is likely to be submitted shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

Disposal of damaged foodgrains

1868. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has disposed off 1.82 lakh tonnes of damaged foodgrains;